

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4540

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET TRAVEL CONTROLS

REFS: A. EUR/SOV TRAVEL CONTROL MEMORANDUM, AUGUST 28, 1975.
B. EUR/SOV MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION, JULY 31, 1975.
C. MOSCOW 12676

1. A DETAILED PERUSAL OF EMBASSY TRAVEL FILES HAS TURNED UP A TOTAL OF FIVE (5) REQUESTS FOR CLOSED-AREA EXCEPTION FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1, 1974 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 16, 1975 -- A SOMEWHAT MORE MODEST NUMBER THAN KRUGLOV'S ASSERTION IN REF A. FOUR (4) CLOSED-REA EXCEPTION REQUESTS INVOLVING TEN EMBOFFS WERE IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO VLADIVOSTOK AND WERE THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS GRANTED. THE FIFTH REQUEST BY EMBOFF FOURIER FOR A TRIP FROM VLADIVOSTOK, TO CHELYABINSK AND MIASS ON CONSULAR BUSINESS WAS DENIED.

2. FOR THE SAME PERIOD THE EMBASSY REQUESTED 25 EXCEPTIONS TO THE 24-HOUR PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF TRAVEL RULE WITH NO REFUSALS, AND 21 EXCEPTIONS TO THE 48-HOUR PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF TRAVEL RULE WITH FOUR REFUSALS

3. OPEN CITIES CLOSED FOR "REASONS OF A TEMPORARY NATURE" THUS
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FAR IN CY 75 (INCLUDING DAO REQUESTS) ARE: VOLOGDA - 5 REFUSALS;

MARY 2; ASTRAKHAN 1; ULAN-UDE 1; BRYANSK 1; GOMEL' 1; VITEBSK 1; KALUGA 1; PLANERNAYA 1; CHERNOVTSY 1; VINNITSA 1; TBILISI 2; MINSK 1. EMBASSY TURNDOWNS (EXCLUDING DAO) THUS FAR IN CY 75 NUMBER 6: VOLOGDA 1; MARY 1; CHERNOVTSY 1; VINNITSA 1; TBILISI 1; MINSK 1. OPEN CITIES DENIED ACCESS IN CY 74 (EXCLUDING DAO) ARE VLADIMIR-SUZDAL' - 4 DENIALS; ALEKSANDROV 1; YUR'YEV-POL'SKIY 1; MELIKHOVO 1; CHEKHOV1; NIZHNEVARTOVSK 1; KHANTY-MANSIYSK 1; SURGUT 1; TYUMEN; 1; KHABAROVSK 2; NAKHODKA 1; SAMARKAND 1; BUKHARA 1; DUSHANBE 1; UFA 1; FOR A TOTAL OF 19 TURNDOWNS.

4. THE DECREASE IN DIRECT TRAVEL REFUSALS FROM CY 74 TO CY 75 IN EMBASSY'S VIEW IS DUE LESS TO A MORE LIBERAL SOVIET TRAVEL POLICY THAN TO AN EFFORT TO USE MORE INDIRECT MEANS, SUCH AS ALTERATION OF REQUESTED MEANS OF TRAVEL AND "UNAVAILABILITY" OF HOTEL ROOMS (SEE REFTEL C), AND THUS AVOID RECIPROCAL RETALIATION IN WASHINGTON. THE EMBASSY INTENDS TO KEEP THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF THE FREQUENCY AND NATURE OF SUCH INDIRECT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS.

5. ABOVE INFORMATION MAY ASSIST DEPARTMENT IN DEALINGS WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY CONCERNING TRAVEL CONTROLS AND RECIPROCITY. PLEASE ADVISE IF THERE IS ANY FOLLOW-UP ON QUESTION OF RELAXATION OF EXISTING RECIPROCAL TRAVEL CONTROLS MENTIONED IN REF B. MATLOCK

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